

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, February 26, 2009, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at 10:49 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE RIGHT HONORABLE GORDON BROWN, PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Majority Floor Services Chief, Mr. Barry Sullivan, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the Right Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN);

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL);

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON);

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER);

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR);

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. KING);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH); and

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the Right Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);
The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY);

The Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD);

The Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER);

The Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN);

The Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB);

The Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN);

The Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR);

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER);

The Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON);

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO); and

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The Majority Floor Services Chief announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Her Excellency Heng Chee Chan, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for her.

At 11 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m., the Majority Floor Services Chief announced the Right Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the Right Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Prime Minister BROWN. Madam Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Members of Congress, I come to this great capital of this great Na-

tion, an America renewed under a new President, to say that America's faith in the future has been, is, and always will be an inspiration to me and to the whole world.

Two centuries ago, your creation of America was the boldest possible affirmation of faith in the future. It's a future you have not just believed in but a future you have built with your own hands.

On the 20th of January, you, the American people, wrote the latest chapter in the American story, with a transition of dignity, in which both sides of the aisle should take great pride. And on that day, billions of people truly looked to Washington, D.C., as a shining city upon the hill, lighting up the whole of the world.

Let me thank President Obama for his leadership, for his friendship and for giving the whole world renewed hope in itself.

And I know you will allow me to single out for special mention today one of your most distinguished Senators, known in every continent and a great friend. Northern Ireland today is at peace, more Americans have health care, children around the world are going to school, and for all those things, we owe a great debt to the life and courage of Senator EDWARD KENNEDY.

Today, having talked to him last night, I want to announce, awarded by Her Majesty the Queen on behalf of the British people, an honorary knighthood for Sir EDWARD KENNEDY.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Vice President, I come in friendship to renew, for new times, our special relationship that is founded on our shared history, our shared values and, I believe, our shared futures.

I grew up in the 1960s as America, led by President Kennedy, looked to the heavens and saw not the endless void of the unknown but a new frontier to dare to discover and to explore. People said it couldn't be done but America did it.

And 20 years later, in the 1980s, America, led by President Reagan, refused to accept the fate of millions trapped behind the Iron Curtain and insisted, instead, that the peoples of Eastern Europe be allowed to join the ranks of nations which live safe, strong, and free. People said it would never happen in our lifetime, but it did, and the Berlin Wall was torn down brick by brick.

So, early in my life, I came to understand that America is not just the indispensable Nation; you are the irrepressible Nation.

Throughout your history, America has led insurrections in the human imagination. You've summoned revolutionary times through your belief that there is no such thing as an impossible endeavor, and it's never possible to come here without having your faith in the future renewed.

Now, I want to thank you on behalf of the British people because throughout the whole century, the American

people stood liberty's ground, not just in one world war but in two. And I want you to know that we will never forget the sacrifice and the service of the American soldiers who gave their lives for people whose names they never knew and whose faces they never saw, yet people who have lived in freedom thanks to the bravery and valor of the Americans who gave that last full measure of devotion.

Cemetery after cemetery across Europe honors the memory of American soldiers, resting row upon row, often alongside comrades-in-arms from Britain. And there is no battlefield of liberty on which there is not a piece of land that is marked out as American, and there is no day of remembrance within Britain that is not also a commemoration of American courage and sacrifice far from home.

In the hardest days of the last century, faith in the future kept America alive, and I tell you that America kept faith in the future alive for all the world.

And let me do a tribute to the soldiers, yours and ours, who today fight side by side in the plains of Afghanistan, the streets of Iraq, just as their forefathers fought side by side in the sands of Tunisia, the beaches of Normandy, and then on the bridges over the Rhine.

Almost every family in Britain has a tie that binds them to America. So I want you to know that whenever a young American soldier or marine or sailor or airman is killed in conflict, anywhere in the world, we the people of Britain grieve with you. We know that your loss is our loss, your family's sorrow is our family's sorrow, and your Nation's determination is our nation's determination that they shall not have died in vain.

And after that terrible September morning, when your homeland was attacked, the Coldstream Guards at Buckingham Palace played the "Star Spangled Banner," our own British tribute, as we wept for our friends in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And let me, therefore, promise you our continued support to ensure that there is no hiding place for terrorists, no safe haven for terrorism. You should be proud that in the years after 2001, that while terrorists may destroy buildings and even, tragically, lives, they have not, and will not ever, destroy the American spirit.

So let it be said of the friendship between our two countries that it is in times of trial, true; in the face of fear, faithful; and amidst the storms of change, constant.

And let it be said of our friendship also, formed and forged over two tumultuous centuries, a friendship tested in war, strengthened in peace, that it has not just endured but is renewed each generation to better serve our shared values and fulfill the hopes and dreams of the day, not alliances of convenience. It is a partnership of purpose.

Alliances can wither or be destroyed, but partnerships of purpose are indestructible. Friendships can be shaken, but our friendship is unshakable. Treaties can be broken, but our partnership is unbreakable. And I know that there is no power on Earth that can ever drive us apart.

We will work tirelessly with you as partners for peace in the Middle East; for a two-state solution, proposed by President Clinton and driven forward by President Bush, that provides for nothing less than a secure Israel, safe within its borders, existing side by side with a viable Palestinian state.

And we will work tirelessly with you to reduce the threat of nuclear proliferation and reduce the stockpile of nuclear weapons. And our shared message to Iran, it is simple: We are ready for you to rejoin the international community, but first, you must cease your threats and suspend your nuclear program.

Past Prime Ministers have traveled to this Capitol Building in the times of war to talk of war. I come now to talk of new and different battles we must also fight together, to speak of a global economy in crisis and a planet imperiled.

These are new priorities for our new times, and let us be honest. Tonight too many parents, after they put their children to bed, will speak of their worries about losing their jobs or the need to sell the house. Too many will share stories of friends or neighbors already packing up their homes. Too many will talk of a local store or business that has already gone to the wall.

For me, this global recession is not to be measured just in statistics or in graphs or on a balance sheet. Instead, I see one individual with one set of dreams and fears, then another and then another, each with their own stars to reach for, each part of a family, each at the heart of a community, now in need of help and hope. And when banks have failed and markets have faltered, we the representatives of the people have to be the people's last line of defense.

That's why for me there is no financial orthodoxy so entrenched, there's no conventional thinking so ingrained, there's no special interest so strong that it should ever stand in the way of the change that hardworking families now need.

We have learned through this world downturn that markets should be free, but markets should never be values-free. We have learned that the risks people take should never be separated from the responsibilities that they must meet. And if perhaps some once thought it beyond our power to shape the global markets to meet the needs of the people, we now know that that is our duty. We cannot and must not stand aside.

In our families and workplaces and in our places of worship, we celebrate men and women of integrity, who work hard, treat people fairly, take responsi-

bility, look out for others, and if these are the principles we live by in our families and neighborhoods, they should also be the principles that guide and govern our economic life.

And the world has learned that what makes for the good society also now makes for the good economy, too. My father was a minister of the church, and I have learned again what I was taught by him: that wealth should help more than the wealthy; that good fortune should serve more than the fortunate; and that riches must enrich not just some of our communities but all of our communities. And these enduring values are, in my view, the values we need for these new times.

We tend to think of the sweep of destiny as stretching across many months and years before culminating in decisive moments that we call history. But sometimes the reality is that defining moments of history come suddenly and without warning, and the task of leadership then is to define them, to shape them, and to move forward into the new world they demand.

An economic hurricane has swept the world, creating a crisis of credit and a crisis of confidence. History has brought us now to a point where change is essential, and we are summoned not just to manage our times but to transform them.

Our task is to rebuild prosperity and security in a wholly different economic world, where competition is no longer just local, but it's global; and where banks are no longer national, but they're international. And we need to understand, therefore, what went wrong in this crisis, that the very financial instruments that were designed to diversify risk across the banking system instead spread contagion right across the globe. And today's financial institutions, they're so interwoven that a bad bank anywhere is a threat to good banks everywhere.

But should we succumb to a race to the bottom and to a protectionism that history tells us that in the end protects no one? No. We should have the confidence, America and Britain most of all, that we can seize the global opportunities ahead and make the future work for us. And why? Because while today people are anxious and feel insecure, over the next two decades, literally billions of people in other continents will move from being simply producers of their goods to being consumers of our goods, and in this way, the world economy will double in size. Twice as many opportunities for business, twice as much prosperity, the biggest expansion of middle class incomes and jobs the world has seen.

So we win our future not by retreating from the world but by engaging with it. America and Britain will succeed and lead if we tap into the talents of our people, unleash the genius of our scientists, set free the drive of our entrepreneurs. We will win the race to the top if we can develop the new high-value-added products and services and

the new green goods that the rising numbers of hardworking families across our globe will want to buy.

So, in these unprecedented times, we must educate our way out of a downturn. We must invest and invent our way out of a downturn. We must retool and reskill our way out of a downturn. And this is not blind optimism or synthetic confidence to console people. It's a practical affirmation for our times of a faith in a better future.

Every time we rebuild a school, we demonstrate our faith in the future. Every time we send more people to university, every time we invest more in our new digital infrastructure, every time we increase support for our scientists, we demonstrate our faith in the future.

And so I say to this Congress and this country, something that runs deep in your character and is woven in your history, we conquer our fear of the future through our faith in the future, and it is this faith in the future that means we must commit to protecting the planet for generations who will come long after us.

The Greek proverb, what does it say? Why does anybody plant the seeds of a tree whose shade they will never see? The answer is because they look to the future. And I believe you, the Nation that had the vision to put a man on the Moon, are also the Nation with the vision to protect and preserve our planet Earth.

And you know it's only by investing in environmental technology that we can end the dictatorship of oil, and it's only by tackling climate change that we can create the millions of new green jobs that we need and can have.

For the lesson of this crisis is that we cannot just wait for tomorrow today. We cannot just think of tomorrow today. We cannot merely plan for tomorrow today. Our task must be to build tomorrow today.

And America knows from its history that its reach goes far beyond its geography. For a century, you have carried upon your shoulders the greatest of responsibility: to work with and for the rest of the world. And let me tell you that now, more than ever, the rest of the world wants to work with America.

If these times have shown us anything it's that the major challenges we face are global. No matter where it starts, an economic crisis does not stop at the water's edge. It ripples across the world. Climate change does not honor passport control. Terrorism has no respect for borders. Modern communication instantly spans every continent. The new frontier is that there is no frontier, and the new shared truth is that global problems now need global solutions.

And let me say to you directly: you now have the most pro-American European leadership in living memory. It's a leadership that wants to cooperate more closely together in order to cooperate more closely with you. There is no old Europe, no new Europe. There is only our friend Europe.

So, once again, I say we should seize this moment because never before have I seen a world willing to come together so much. Never before has that been more needed and never before have the benefits of cooperation been so far-reaching.

So when people here and in other countries ask what more can we do to bring an end to this downturn, let me say this. We can achieve more by working together. And just think of what we can do if we combine not just in a partnership for security but in a new partnership for prosperity.

On jobs, you the American people, through your stimulus proposals, could create or save at least 3 million jobs. We in Britain are acting with similar determination. But how much nearer an end to this downturn would we all be if the whole of the world resolved to do the same?

And you are also restructuring your banks. So are we. But how much safer would everybody's savings be if the whole world finally came together to outlaw shadow banking systems and outlaw offshore tax havens?

So just think how each of our actions, if combined, could mean a whole much greater than the sum of its parts: all, and not just some, banks stabilized; on fiscal stimulus, the impact multiplied because everybody is doing it; rising demand in all our countries creating jobs in each of our countries; and trade once again the engine of prosperity, the wealth of nations restored.

No one should forget it was American visionaries who over a half a century ago, coming out of the deepest of depressions and the worst of wars, produced the boldest of plans for global economic cooperation. They recognized that prosperity was indivisible. They concluded that to be sustained it had to be shared.

And I believe that ours, too, is a time for renewal, for a plan for tackling recession and building for the future, every continent playing their part in a global new deal, a plan for prosperity that can benefit us all.

And first, so that the whole of the worldwide banking system serves our prosperity rather than risks it, let us agree at our G-20 summit in London in April on rules and standards for accountability, transparency, and reward that will mean an end to the excesses and will apply to every bank, everywhere, and all the time.

Second, America and a few others cannot be expected to bear all the burden of the fiscal and interest rate stimulus. We must share it globally. So let us work together for the worldwide reduction of interest rates and a scale of stimulus that is equal to the depth of the recession and round the world to the dimensions of recovery and, most of all, equal to the millions of jobs we must safeguard and create.

And third, let us together renew our international economic cooperation, helping emerging markets rebuild their

banks. Let us sign a world trade agreement to expand commerce. Let us work together also for a low carbon recovery. And I am confident that this President, this Congress, and the peoples of the world can come together in Copenhagen in December and reach a historic agreement to combat climate change.

And let us never forget in times of turmoil our duties to the least of these, the poorest of the world. In the Rwanda museum of genocide, there is a memorial to the countless children who were among those murdered in the massacres in Rwanda. There is one of the face of a child, David. The words beneath him are brief; yet, they weigh on me heavily. It says: Name, David. Age, 10. Favorite sport, football. Enjoyed making people laugh. Dreamed to become a doctor. Cause of death, tortured to death. Last words, "The United Nations will come for us."

But we never did. That child believed the best of us. That he was wrong is to our eternal discredit. We tend to think of a day of judgment as a moment to come, but our faith tells us, as the writer said, that judgment is more than that. It is a summary court in perpetual session.

And when I visit those bare, run-down, yet teeming classrooms across Africa, they're full of children, like our children, desperate to learn, but because we've been unable as a world to keep our promises to help, more and more children, I tell you, are being lured to expensively funded madrassas, teaching innocent children to hate us.

So for our security and our children's security and these children's future, you know the greatest gift of our generation, the greatest gift we could give to the world, the gift of America and Britain, could be that every child in every country should have the chance 70 million children today do not have, the chance to go to school, to spell their names, to count their age and perhaps learn of a great generation who are striving to make their freedom real.

Let us remember that there is a common bond that across different beliefs, cultures, and nationalities unites us as human beings. It is at the core of my convictions. It's the essence of America's spirit. It's the heart of all our faiths. And it must be at the center of our response to this crisis, too.

Our values tell us we cannot be wholly comfortable while others go without comfort; that our communities can never be fully at ease if millions feel ill at ease; that our society cannot be truly strong when millions are left so weak. And this much we know: when the strong help the weak, it makes us all stronger.

And this, too, is true. All of us know that in a recession the wealthiest, the most powerful, and the most privileged can find a way through. So we don't value the wealthy less when we say that our first duty is to help the not-

so-wealthy. We don't value the powerful less when we say our first responsibility is to help the powerless. And we do not value those who are secure less when we say our first priority must be to help the insecure.

These recent events have forced us all to think anew, and while I have learned many things over these last few months, I keep returning to something I first learned in my father's church as a child. In these most modern of crises, I am drawn to the most ancient of truths. Wherever there is hardship, wherever there is suffering, we cannot, we will not, we will never pass by on the other side.

But you know, working together there is no challenge to which we're not equal. There's no obstacle we can't overcome. There's no aspiration so high it cannot be achieved.

In the depths of the Depression, when Franklin Roosevelt did battle with fear itself, it was not simply by the power of his words, his personality, and his example that he triumphed. Yes, all these things mattered, but what mattered more was this enduring truth: that you, the American people, at your core, were, as you remain, every bit as optimistic as your Roosevelts, your Reagans and your Obamas.

And this is the faith in the future that has always been the story and promise of America. So, at this defining moment in history, let us renew our special relationship for our generation and our times. Let us work together to restore prosperity and protect this planet, and with faith in the future, let us together build tomorrow today.

Thank you.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m., the Right Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Majority Floor Services Chief escorted the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps from the Chamber.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 11 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1245

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona) at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

HEALTH CARE—IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Ladies and gentlemen of America, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$20 billion to accelerate the adoption of health information systems by doctors and hospitals; these are electronic medical records. This will modernize health care in this country, it will save billions of dollars by reducing the need for duplicate diagnostic procedures, it will reduce medical errors and improve the quality of services. This will create or save hundreds of thousands of jobs, many in the high-tech sectors, tens of billions of dollars in system-wide savings, including a net reduction in private health insurance premiums for families.

I want the public to know that it's time for change. Our health care system should have been addressed many, many years ago, but under this new administration and under this Democratic leadership of this fine body, we are doing what needs to be done in order to put this country in a posture it needs to be in for the new millennium.

TAX DEDUCTIONS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents, Gail, from Lititz, Pennsylvania, recently wrote to me about a provision in the President's recently released budget. She said, among other things, "God has blessed us abundantly in many ways; in turn, we have been able to bless others. We donate a very large percentage of our income to the hungry, homeless, orphaned and widowed. We are in the top tax bracket. Any increase in our taxes or decrease in our charitable deductions will not hurt our standard of living, it will, indeed, hurt the very people that the government is trying to help."

When Alexis de Tocqueville wrote with praise for America, he cited our civic institutions, like churches and other nonprofit organizations, as the basis for our strength in the Nation. The Obama administration is woefully misguided if they think reducing the tax credit for charitable donations will help America. During an economic recession, our churches, charities, and other community organizations that assist many individuals quicker and more effectively than government programs will be harmed. It's a mistake to change our tax policy to reduce funding to these organizations when their help is needed most in communities across America.

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW FOR HEALTH CARE

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Last week, President Obama submitted a budget that expresses his commitment to transforming health care in America. Tomorrow, he will gather Members of Congress, consumers, business men and women, and health care providers at the White House to discuss how to achieve the common goals he laid out in the budget, "constraining costs, expanding access, and improving quality."

The economic crisis we face is not a cause for delay, it is an argument for comprehensive reform. The need for action couldn't be clearer. Every percentage increase in the unemployment rate means another 1.1 million Americans becomes uninsured.

Over half of all Americans, many of them insured, are doing without medical care because of high costs. Emergency rooms are being forced to turn away patients, and businesses that cover their workers are struggling to be competitive in the face of rising premiums.

We must assure that all Americans are covered and give each a choice of a public health insurance plan or private plan that provides comprehensive, affordable and high-quality care. The time to act is now.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE THE SOLUTION

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise with concern about the President's budget.

Now is not the time to be raising taxes. We should not be raising rates, nor should we diminish the benefits for people who are paying their mortgage as they should be. As determined as the Democrats are to raise taxes, you don't fuel the engines of economic growth by penalizing those who are responsible,